(d) Taking the annual consumption of salt to be 3,00,000 maunds, the amount that actually goes out of the State is nearly Rs. 2,25,000.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trippunittura*).

Has the Government any idea as to how much money will be required to conduct an investigation?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

No experts have been written to, and, therefore, we have no definite idea about the matter. But it may come to about Rs. 30,000.

Tobacco cultivation.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trippunittura*).

46. Will the Government be pleased to state whether tobacco cultivation was at any time tried in the State, and if so, when and where and with what result?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

The cultivation of tobacco in the State was tried for the first time in the year 1099 in the Mulattura village of the Chittur Taluk by Mr. J. M. Doraswami Pillai, Manager, Uttukuli Zamin, and it was a failure. There has been no other attempt by any to cultivate the plant.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trppunittura*).

Sir, will the Government be pleased to say whether they will help to induce the people to take to this business?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

The Government does not think it necessary to give any help to private agencies who want to cultivate tobacco.

Tapping Sweet Toddy.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangaiam*).

47. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) When the system of granting license for tapping palmyras for sweet toddy has been introduced in the State, and what is the annual income derived

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from that source from each taluk during the last five years?

(b) Is the Government aware that this system has been causing great distress to the tapping communities of the Chittur and Talappalli Taluks?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

(a) The system of granting license for tapping for sweet toddy was introduced from the beginning of the year 1082. The annual income derived from this source for each taluk for the past five years is shown below:—

Taluk.	*Revenue during the year.*				
	1095 Rs.	1096 Rs.	1097 Rs.	1098 Rs.	1099 Rs.
Kanayannur ...	141	136	119	56	75
Cochin ...	1,040	1,171	1,151	1,065	771
Cranganur ...	1,545	1,604	1,620	1,487	1,340
Mukundapuram ...	276	265	235	191	162
Trichur ...	831	888	849	878	868
Talappalli ...	2,968	3,250	3,400	3,461	3,558
Chittur ...	2,287	2,570	2,315	1,146	1,611

(b) Government is not aware that the system has been causing great distress to the tapping communities of the Chittur and Talappalli Taluks.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

I have asked for the income derived from palmyra trees given for tapping. The statement given, I think, includes palmayra, cocoanuts and other trees.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

It includes all.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

My question was for palmyra, and I have specified the two taluks of Chittur and Talappalli.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

I shall give the information presently. I have to refer to my file.

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President.—

If you are given time, you will refer to the statement. Is it not?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

Yes, Sir.

Articles of Export and Import.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA (*Landlords*).

48. Has the Government any information as to what are the chief articles of export and import from and to Cochin during the last thirty years and the approximate value of each item of import and export each year?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

Government has no information in the matter.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, yesterday the honourable member for Chalakkudi raised a point of order as to whether the Secretary was in order in calling out the names of the questioners, and not standing up when doing so. It was ruled that he was in order. But I wish to say that the Secretary as a Secretary has absolutely no mouth or place inside the Council. He is only placed as a member of the Council. If he was an ordinary Secretary and not a member of this House, I think, the President would be calling the names. I know that the President's decision should not be questioned. I bow to the President's decision. I only say that, if he had not been nominated as a member of this Council, he would have had no function inside the Council at all, not even to open his mouth. I bow to your wishes. My point, however, is that he opens his mouth as a member and not as a Secretary at all; and all members should rise from their seats when they speak, according to the rules.

President.—

I desire to point out for the information of Mr. Salem that what the Secretary does is ministerial work.

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